



# The Branch

Volume 24 Issue 2

February 2011

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL – COUNCIL REPORT

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE PASTORAL SEARCH PROCESS

January 9, 2011 Annual Church Council was held following worship and a light lunch. Annual Council occurs only one time a year. This year, 91 people attended the lunch and 76 were present for the Council meeting. A 2011 Budget of \$320,000 (\$6154.00 per Sunday) was approved. Elections were held and the results are as follows:

Church Board: Sandra Stauffer, Chad Warfel, Phil Weaver  
Deacons: Mark Simmons  
Trustees: Joel Ernst, Allen Forbes, John Sauder,  
Christian Education: Kim Ernst, Martha Thomas  
Personnel: David Mosemann, Susan Snyder  
Finance commission: Kevin Thrush  
Worship: Wilfred Muskens  
Trustee representative to Church Board: John W. Kreider  
Deacon representative to Church Board: Brian Frey

The business meeting was about 1 hour long, but the highlight of the meeting was the unity demonstrated by everyone present. Sometimes you can tell when the Holy Spirit is working. He was present on that day and it is clear that LBIC is alive and well! Our 2010 offerings ended better than the yearly trend indicated and the Celebrating God's Grace fund is in good shape with adequate pledges for the next 3-year period. God has been speaking to the LBIC family, resulting in a church body that is responding to Him in positive and sacrificial ways!

*Bill Ziegler*

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### From Bishop Nate Yoder and the LBIC Pastoral Search Committee

As you know, Lancaster BIC is in a season of transition. On January 24, the church board met with Bishop Nate Yoder to begin the pastoral search process. We are excited about how God will lead and guide during this season of congregational life. As a part of this process, we desire your input. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the **Character and Call Survey**. This survey can be accessed at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LancasterBICCharacterandCall>

This survey will be available for you to complete through February 11. We also ask that you continually keep the search process in your prayers.

**Your input is welcomed:** On February 17 @ 7 PM, Bishop Nate will be sharing the results of the survey with the pastoral search committee. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend the portion of this meeting that covers the survey results. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions of Bishop Nate in regards to the search process.

Finally, if you have specific names of pastoral candidates that you would like to have considered, you may submit the names and contact information to the Atlantic Conference office. Please send any suggestions to [atlanticbic@comcast.net](mailto:atlanticbic@comcast.net)

Thank you for your engagement in this process. I look forward to working with you in discerning God's direction in the search process.

With anticipation,

Bishop Nate Yoder & The Pastoral Search Committee

**Nate Yoder**  
Bishop, Atlantic Conference Brethren in Christ  
232 W. Main St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078  
(717) 473-3145

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Where is my great room?" words of Jesus from Mark 14:14. It is amazing that the King of Kings, Creator and Sustainer of everything, asks for anything. Why not use His irresistible power and do what needs done? He, and this is truly amazing, limits Himself when it comes to you and me.

Every door in this world is open to Satan, but Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He will not enter where He is not welcomed. We are not worthy that He should enter, but He will and does. That, my friends, is love. A good thought I hope as we come to Valentine's Day.

Pastor Jim

FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

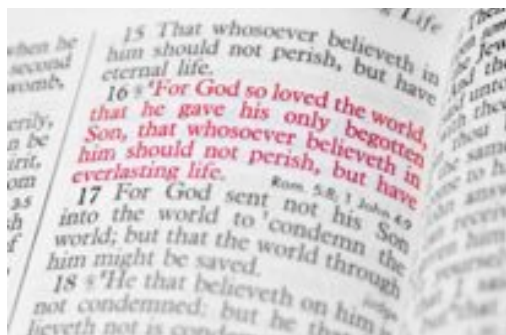
- 6 Blessed are the Pure in Heart
- 13 Blessed are the Peacemakers
- 20 Blessed are the Persecuted
- 27 Rejoicing in the darkness  
Matthew 5:11-12

March  
6 You must be salt  
Matthew 5:13

13 You must be light  
Matthew 5:14-16

20 Jesus & Moses  
Matthew 5:17-20

27 Jesus & Law & Prophets  
Matthew 5:17-20



CARTOON



OUR SCRIPTURE TO MEMORIZE:

Background Context for Colossians 1:13-22

This passage is one of the richest 'Christ' passages in the New Testament. It is part of a larger section where Paul reminds the church of their hope in the gospel and prays they will grow in the knowledge of God. You could say Paul is praying "I want you to grow to know God better. Now here is what He is like..."

In the section that follows, Paul shares that it is **this** supreme Christ who saved them. There are no secret truths or greater levels of spirituality. Christ Himself is the mystery revealed, this One in whom they hope.

**Colossians 1:15-20** "He is the **image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation**, for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him – all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers – **all things were created through him and for him**. He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. **He is the head of the body, the church**, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross – through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

Bill Ziegler

## MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray & offer praise for:

- **Pray for volunteers to assist with our Good News Club** at Bucher Elementary school. We begin the spring semester on March 3, 2011. Regular invitations for children to accept Jesus as their Savior are provided.
- **Praise God that while we did not meet our budget in terms of receipts, our Church Budget ended the year with receipts ahead of costs, with a positive balance!**
- **Pray for the Pastoral Search process as Bishop Yoder assists our Pastoral Committee with a search.**
- **Praise God for the volunteers who stepped up to fill vacancies!**
- **Continue to pray for items of church-wide concern:**



## LBIC & BIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE



*“Communities of Transformation”:*

Atlantic Regional Conference, March 26 at Manheim BIC.

**Allen Forbes, Lloyd Melhorne & Jack Wolgemuth are our delegates to the BIC Regional (Atlantic) Conference at Manheim BIC** on Saturday, March 26. Plans this year include taking a look at the trends of the last 10 years in the Conference, sharing some potential new Conference initiatives, and offering helpful breakout sessions for pastors and ministry leaders. Some of the topics addressed in the breakout sessions will include: How to organize a Missions Trip, Media Ministry on a Tight Budget, Children and Youth Ministry on a Tight Budget, Teaching Youth about Sexuality, Having a Ministry at Your Job, Protecting your Church from Legal Liabilities, and others. One does not need to be a delegate in order to attend. **If you are interested in joining us for this one-day conference, contact any LBIC delegate.**

*Bill Ziegler*

## CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE CAMPAIGN

Pledges are in and the amount pledged is nearly \$300,000 for the next three-year period. Many who pledged are giving sacrificially in addition to their regular 10% tithing each week for our regular operating budget! The Finance Commission wants to thank each donor who completed a pledge card. To God be the glory for this outstanding gift to God!

*Bill Ziegler*



**VISION UPDATE**

The Vision Team members are: Jessica Gordon, Amanda Guito, Bill Rhinier, Phyllis Sauder, Sandy Stauffer, Bill and Patty Ziegler, and Jay Zimmerman.

Thirty one people enjoyed the Movie Night on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The movie, **“Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”** (the original), was enjoyed by several LBIC families and some who heard the LBIC Movie Night advertised on WJTL as one of the **“FIVE BEST FREE THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND”!** A huge thanks to Luther Wagner for the technical assistance and to Bradley Wagner, John and Phyllis Sauder, Patty Ziegler, Jessica Gordon and Sandy Stauffer for assisting with logistics and refreshments. Movie nights may continue with additional attendance. If you have some ideas to increase attendance, please let a Vision Team member know.

A basketball tournament featuring players from the Monday night Basketball community outreach is being planned for a Saturday and possibly a Sunday in February. More information to come.

**OUR VISION**

“Fulfill the Great Commission in Manheim Twp. & be a visible spiritual force in the community.”



**NICARAGUA TRIP, EARLY SUMMER, 2011**

All interested in the Nicaragua trip this coming summer we have more info for you!! The trip is tentatively set for June 18-26. This allows for a full week of work, 2.5 days of travel, and 1.5 days to sight see. The trip promises to stretch you and bless you all at the same time. If you are interested in learning more or planning on going on the trip please plan on attending an informational meeting **Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 pm** in the Church lounge. During this time we can answer any questions. Please pray for those that are thinking of attending and for Marshall Poe as he works out the details of the trip. Hope to see you there!

*Shandi Santos <><*



**BIC GLOBAL PRAYER DAY 2011  
ZIMBABWE**

Dear pastors & leaders,

This year's BIC Global Prayer Day is set for **Sunday, March 13, 2011** with a special focus on the country and BIC ministries of **Zimbabwe**.

North American congregations will receive resources by mail and email later this month to help with preparations for this day of corporate intercession.

Please share this with your fellow leaders and congregation and plan to join in as we unite in prayer for our brothers and sisters of Zimbabwe.

blessings,  
BICWM

**OUR MISSION**

**We strive to be:**

- A community where people meet Christ;
- A family where people encourage one another in Christ;
- A school where people become Disciples of Christ.

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**DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND 2011**

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PLEASE mark March 26 & 27, 2011 as important dates! Our annual Discipleship weekend will host Rev. "Woody" Dalton, senior pastor of the Harrisburg BIC church as the special speaker.

His talks will focus on **DISCIPLESHIP**. **But what is discipleship?**

Being a disciple encompasses more than just asking Christ in, and goes far beyond baptism. Our conversion, our acceptance of Christ as Savior, our election, is the beginning, the entrance, into the faith and Christian life. It does not stop there! It **starts** there!

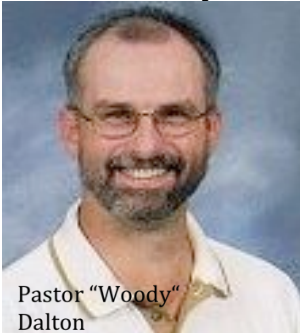
*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)* From **What is Discipleship?** By Dr. Richard J. Krejcir; Gospel.com January, 2011.

### **Discover your discipleship!**

SCHEDULE: (Please mark your calendar and plan to support these opportunities to strengthen your service to our GOD!)

A **SPECIAL DINNER** on Saturday evening, MARCH 26 at 5:30 pm will kick off the weekend. The **first session** will follow at 7 pm.

**Subsequent sessions** will be held on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a single Worship Service at 10:30 am. Additional information will be available at [www.lanbic.org](http://www.lanbic.org) and on a future mailbox flyer. For now, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. **Mark your calendars now: MARCH 26 & 27.**



Pastor "Woody"  
Dalton

**OUR SPEAKER: Glenn "Woody" Dalton, Jr.**

Pastor Woody was born in Virginia, but has made Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church his home since 1980. Pastor Woody's wife, Kim, is a licensed psychologist and has training as a Spiritual Director (a type of spiritual mentoring, also called "Holy Listening"). Woody and Kim have three active teenage sons: Christopher, Zachary, and Jesse. When he finds a few minutes to relax, Woody can most likely be found on the golf course (if there's anything less than a monsoon or blizzard) or playing chess.

Pastor Woody's education includes: Associate of Art from Emmanuel Junior College, Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alabama, Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

*Bill Ziegler*

## BATTLING THE “WHAT IFs” (Praising God in all things)

January 16, 2011

This life lesson was too powerful not to share. This past week (Jan 11 – Jan 16) had too many prayers, coincidences and obvious communications with God to disregard. Hopefully, something in this personal encounter will resonate with you. If not, it will at least stand as a reminder that we serve God Almighty (El Shaddai) and not the other way around.

A quick recap for those of you who don't know how this all began: My wife, Jennifer, was 28 weeks pregnant and went for an ultrasound. They held her for 24 hours while they monitored the baby, her blood, her urine, her blood pressure, etc. She had an IV started, her first ever. The only time she was allowed to be upright was to use the bathroom. The ultrasound showed that the baby, Lydia, is at the bottom end of the growth scale and Jennifer had one high blood pressure reading. The doctor's were talking about the possibility of an early c-section. So, I got a call at work on that particular Tuesday. Jennifer told me that they were holding her for observation. She didn't know how long. I called back an hour later and she told me that they were holding for 24 hours. So I left work early.

Fast forward one hour: I am standing on my patio, bag packed for Jennifer, laptop packed for me, and ready to go to Women and Babies to find Jennifer. I prayed for the 30 minutes that it took me to get home and I stopped again to pray. This is where the “What ifs” started. I prayed for Jennifer. I prayed for Lydia. I prayed for the hospital staff. I prayed for her doctors. I found myself bargaining with God. I started making deals with God, then laughed out loud.

Everything is His already. So I prayed for peace for myself to be able to deal with what was to come. I prayed for strength. I prayed. Did I mention that I prayed? A strange thing happened next.

This is usually the point in the story where a strange calm would fall upon me. A peace that passes understanding. Well. It didn't. The opposite happened. God asked me how much was enough? How much blessing do I need? I was blessed with His grace, a solid family, an amazing Christian wife, a bizarre, interesting career, married into an excellent family, and many, many other blessings. How much was enough. I was disturbed and perplexed. I stood stunned.

What if this baby is delivered tomorrow? What if they try to deliver her too soon? What if Lydia has brain damage? Deformed? What if I, God forbid, lose one or both of them? What if . . .

I couldn't go on. My mind spiraled out of control. I didn't feel comforted, calm, or at peace. I am a former Marine who is certain of his salvation . . . and I was scared anyway. So I prayed again, “What am I to do?”

God answered, “Well, what CAN you do?”

“I can pray.”

“You already did that.”

“What is left?”

“What CAN you do? Think.”

My mind started racing. Let's go back to the what ifs. (1) What if the baby is delivered tomorrow? Be supportive of Lydia and Jennifer and when they are released from the hospital, be the best Christian husband and father that I can. (2) What if Lydia is born too early, brain damaged, or deformed? I will be supportive of Lydia and Jennifer and when they are released from the hospital, be the best Christian husband and father that I can. (3)

Then I will be released from my duties of husband and/or father and will be the best Christian man that I can.

I was amazed! All the scenarios ended roughly the same way. So I finally understood what it meant to let go and let God. Thy will be done. God is sovereign and in control. I am not. This is fair, this is just, this is the true nature of things. Who am I to question? I was disappointed that I did not have the peace that most people in these stories receive. I felt robbed.

Then, sitting there next Sunday morning in my Faith and Fellowship Bible Learning Class led by John and Susan Kreider, I learned that I was not alone. (Well, I was alone. Jennifer was on bed rest and I attended without her.) We were working through a DVD series called, “Gripped by the Greatness of God” by James MacDonald. We were covering the chapter about God's Holiness. At the end, we watched a two minute clip where Mr. MacDonald gave a personal account of his encounter with Holy God. James described my experience almost word for word. I was not alone. God didn't want James to be comforted or peaceful. God wanted him to be obedient. God wanted him to be faithful.

The answer was obvious: With Jesus the Christ as my intercessor, the Holy Spirit as my guide, I will be as obedient and faithful to God as I can. The rest is out of my control. I don't quite know if you will believe me, but there is comfort in that. To answer a previous question that I believe God asked me, “What CAN you do?” I will give God the glory, whether it's during joy or pain, gladness or grief, I will praise Him.

So, whatever may come, I may not be peaceful or calm, but I have conquered the what ifs. God has reminded me who is in charge of the what ifs. I can't even control the limited time I have here on earth. God is in control of limitless time, limitless

## BATTLING THE "WHAT IFs" (Praising God in all things) continued

time.

Keep this in mind if the what ifs are getting to you. "What CAN you do?" The answer is not: nothing. You can pray. You can praise God. You can give Him the glory. There is comfort in that.

January 26, 2011

I wrote the above on January 16, 2011. I didn't even have time to submit it to The Branch or post it on Facebook. Five days later on January 21<sup>st</sup>, Lydia Grace Frey was born ten weeks early by C-section. She is in the Reading Hospital's NICU and will be for many weeks. When she was born she weighed just under two pounds. She did not need to be put on a ventilator. She got a nine on her first minute APGAR score and a nine on her five minute APGAR score. (I don't have the space to explain that here.) That is amazing. I could not have imagined a better outcome.

The what ifs still attack me. I still lose my patience. I am still saddened that I can't bring my baby girl home. I am standing firm, however, knowing that this baby, my wife, and myself are well-blanketed in prayer. God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to drive to Reading to visit my sweet, little girl. And I do mean little.

*Brian Frey*



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT LBIC

On January 11, Christian Education Commission continuing members: Jane Forbes, Shandi Santos, Steve Smith, Diane Wagner, and Jim Yoder met with new members, Kim Ernst and Martha Thomas.

The chairperson for 2011 is Diane Wagner and Martha Thomas is the secretary.

Commission members reviewed several ministries and announced the following personnel:

Youth Ministries: Shandi Santos

Children's Ministries: Lynne Weaver

Adult Bible Learning: Jim Yoder

Adult Bible Learning classes / events set-up: Steve Smith

Adult, Fellowship, and Outreach Ministries: Diane Wagner

Toddler Gym: Jessica Gordon

Gym Time Plus: Eileen Ostberg

Sunday Children's Church: Patience Hardaker (1 Sunday)

Dads and Dudes: Jim Yoder has organized two Dads and Dudes events

a. Gym time on January 30 from 4-6pm

b. Movie & pizza on March 11 from 6-9pm

LIFT personnel:

1. Junior Girls – will be led by Lynne Weaver.

2. Junior Boys – will be led by Kevin Thrush with the help of Bill Stauffer and Ron Eastep. The Pinewood Derby will continue this LIFT.

3. K-2 – will be led by Gina Yoder with the help of Maribeth Sauder.

4. Preschool – will be led by Kristi Reitzel, Deb Nemith will be the helper.

**This Commission is off to a fantastic start in this time of transition!**

*Bill Ziegler*



# Music Notes

## HEART OF WORSHIP

While reading through some worship material and my daily devotional, some themes continue to surface. Such as, we tend to lean on God when things are not going well and forget about Him when life is great. We think of God when we're struggling financially or facing a medical emergency. We tend to forget to thank God when it seems as though all of our prayers have been answered. Life is good. We also struggle to understand why bad things happen in life. God is with us through the good and the bad and is a part of our life every step of the way. He weeps with us and rejoices with us. The other major theme is how we worship God. We gather on a Sunday and worship Him for the public to see and yet, what is in our heart during that worship?

In Amos 5, God has some pretty strong words. *"I hate and reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; and I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fathlings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*

Those are strong words and a strong condemnation. Obviously this was during a time when the children of Israel were taking part in various evil activities, such as worshipping idols, committing adultery, and only saving what they had left for God. They turned their hearts against God and ignored His will for their lives. But, in the midst of this, they wanted God's help. The economy was struggling and their crops were not fruitful. During this difficult time, they could not understand what God was not there to help them. They brought their offerings, they wept on His altar and still it seemed to them that God had abandoned them.

Does this sound familiar? Our economy has really struggled. Jobs have been lost. Families struggle to provide the basic necessities for their families. Enough struggles to make you think, "God, I'm faithful, I'm going to church regularly, I'm singing your praises, so why are you not helping?"

We cannot buy God's favor with our offerings and our good deeds. We do not impress God with our emotional, passionate worship, if our lifestyle does not show a heart for God. In fact, He will not accept our offerings, prayer and songs of worship unless our hearts are truly repentant and our lives are following Jesus.

So the question remains, where is your heart?

And, while reading these articles and devotions, one song continues to resonate in my mind.

*When the music fades  
And all is stripped away  
And I simply come  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless your heart*

*I'll bring You more than a song  
For a song in itself  
Is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the ways things appear  
You're looking into my heart*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You  
All about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You  
It's all about You Jesus*

*King of endless worth  
No one could express  
How much You deserve  
Though I'm weak and poor  
All I have is Yours  
Every single breath*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You  
All about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You  
It's all about You Jesus*

*It's all about you  
Jesus*

Copyright 1997 Thank You Music – Matt Redman

### Adult Choir – February 2011 Schedule

**Wednesday-2<sup>nd</sup>** – 6:30-7:45pm Rehearsal  
**Sunday-6<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)  
**Wednesday-9<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30-7:45pm Rehearsal  
**Sunday-13<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)  
**Wednesday-16<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30-7:45pm Rehearsal  
**Sunday-20<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00am Rehearsal (sing during 10:30am service)  
**Wednesday-23<sup>rd</sup>** – 6:30-7:15pm Rehearsal; 7:15-8:00pm Easter Choir Rehearsal  
**Thursday-23<sup>rd</sup>** – 6:15-8:30pm DRESS REHEARSAL  
**Sunday-27<sup>th</sup>** – No choir

### Children's Choir – February 2011 Schedule

**Sunday-6<sup>th</sup>** – 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC  
**Sunday-13<sup>th</sup>** – 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC  
**Sunday-20<sup>th</sup>** – 11:40am-12:00pm Rehearsal in RMC  
**Sunday-27<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00am Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

## LIFT MENU

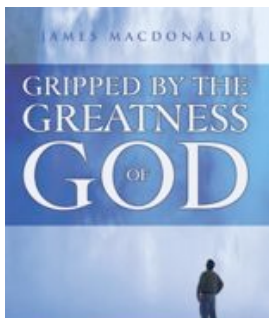
- 2/2 - Lasagna, Italian Bread, PB & J, Salad Bar, Applesauce, Fruit Cup, Assorted Desserts
- 2-9 - Chicken Sandwich, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, PB & J, Salad Bar, Applesauce, Brownies
- 2/16 - Baked Potato Bar & Toppings, Chili, Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Salad Bar, Applesauce, Fruit Cup, Cake
- 2/23 - Chicken Corn Soup, Hot Dogs, Tater Tots, Rolls & Crackers, Salad Bar, PB & J, Applesauce, Ice Cream Sundaes



## GRIPPED BY THE GREATNESS OF GOD

This is an eight-week video series that takes a look at passages in Isaiah. Author, James MacDonald, examines the “awesomeness” of God in His sovereignty, holiness, grace, and glory. This video can be viewed and studied with Terry during LIFT (Wednesdays at 6:45pm) or with Susan during Ladies Bible Study (Wednesdays at 9:30am) or during Bible learning classes in the Church House living room (Sundays at 9am). LIFT and Tuesday morning classes also provide the workbook.

*Diane Wagner*



## LIFT: WHAT IS IT?

**What?** A mid-week dinner at LBIC (donation) followed by classes for every age. Our church family gathers and welcomes guests for dinner preceding the adult classes and classes/activities for children that follow at 6:45 pm.

**When?** LIFT is each Wednesday starting February 2, 2011.  
Dinner at 6 pm. Classes at 6:45 pm.

**Why?** Everyone needs a mid-week LIFT of his/her spirits. Time with God and friends can help!

**HOW?** Check out the adult class titles and the lists for children on the narthex bulletin board and sign-up. LIFT CLASSES ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE. YOU ARE INVITED!

Call the office for more info: 569-5011 M-W-F.



## TO MY LANCASTER BIC FAMILY

Thank you for the \$100 donation toward the Path ministry. Close to 50 families including over 100 children were served in 2010.

I wait with excitement for what God has for Path in 2011.

Your continued support of Path is greatly appreciated.

*Patty Eastep*  
*Path Director*

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**You Can Find it in Our Library**

*Shalom!* is a periodical we receive in our church library four times a year. Each issue of 12 pages has a theme and the current issue's theme is Movies. Some of the article titles are: "The Pleasure of Media," "My Top Seven Redemptive Movies," "Watching Movies with Children," and "Movies from Around the World Recommended by MCC Staff."

Harriet S. Bicksler is the editor of *Shalom!* She does a good job of using a variety of Brethren in Christ persons from across the denomination as a resource for this issue.

You will find *Shalom!* filed on the magazine rack by the windows in the library.

**New books for January:**

- The Grand Weaver* by Ravi Zacharias
- A Sister's Secret* by Wanda E. Brunstetter
- A Sister's Test* by Wanda E. Brunstetter
- A Sister's Hope* by Wanda E. Brunstetter
- Preparing for Marriage* by Dennis Rainey
- The Christmas Sweater* by Glen Beck
- Brethren in Christ History & Life*, editor, E. Morris Sider
- Sex Begins in the Kitchen* by Dr. Kevin Leman
- A Lasting Promise* by Stanley, Trathere, McCain, Bryan

Thanks to each one who donated books for our library.

- C. Groff



Submissions to the Branch should be emailed to [brancheditor@gmail.com](mailto:brancheditor@gmail.com) or placed in the designated mailbox at LBIC.

**FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEDICATION PLAQUE**

The Church Board of Directors would like to place a dedication plaque on the wall of the FLC. The plaque will read:

**IN CELEBRATION OF  
GOD'S GRACE  
This Family Life Center is  
Dedicated to the  
Glory of God  
On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
February 2009**



Due to current budgetary constraints, the Board would like to invite members to participate in donating part or all of the cost toward the plaque. If interested, please contact Bill Ziegler, Administrator. We have received two donations since the January issue of BRANCH. We would welcome your donation.

*Bill Ziegler*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Ben Snyder
- 3 Eleanor Poe
- 8 Ian Groff
- 9 Bill Ziegler
- 14 Ken Espenshade
- 14 Isaiah Wilson
- 14 Dave Snyder
- 17 Sam Krause
- 17 Ashley Sollenberger
- 17 Craig Witmer
- 17 Etta Hess
- 19 Clair Barkle
- 19 Dot Barkle
- 20 Phyllis Sauder
- 21 Carol Crawford
- 21 Bob Sanders
- 28 Laurie Thompson
- 29 Jen Seiger



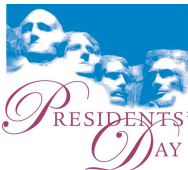
**CHURCH/COMMUNITY ROLLER SKATING NIGHT**

Our Annual Spring Roller Skate at Overlook Park will be held Wednesday, March 2, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Skate rental is \$2.00 (or \$3.00 for in-line). This event is for anyone who attends any programs here at LBIC. Bring a friend or two!! If you know of anyone looking for a home church, be sure to invite them!





# 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		7pm Finance Commission	LIFT 6pm dinner 6:45pm classes   Groundhog Day		8:30 Walk & Wellness	7:00 Men's Bible Study Church Board Seminar – Crossroads BIC – 9-1pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 9:00 Connect group 10:30 Worship 10:30 Friendship class 10:50 Children's Worship	7pm CEC mtg	9am - Pastors Cluster group Toddler Gym  Worship Commission	Moms of Movers  LIFT 6pm dinner 6:45pm classes	Deacon Mtg	6pm Scrapbooking & Crafts	7:00 Men's Bible Study
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 10:30 Worship 10:50 Children's Worship		8:15 Ladies Bible study Toddler Gym Worship commission	Morning Bible Study begins LIFT 6pm dinner 6:45pm classes	7pm Pastoral Search Committee survey results	8:30 Walk & Wellness	7:00 Men's Bible Study  <b>BRANCH DEADLINE</b>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning Classes 9:00 Connect group 10:30 Worship 10:30 Friendship class 10:50 Children's Worship	 <b>RESIDENTS' DAY</b>	8:15 Ladies Bible study Toddler Gym 7pm Vision Team	Morning Bible Study Moms of Movers  LIFT 6pm dinner 6:45pm classes			7:00 Men's Bible Study
27	28					
8:00 Worship 9:00 Bible Learning classes 10:30 Worship 10:50 Children's Worship	Church Board Meeting					

**CRAVE CALENDAR**

**February**

- 2 Paxton St. Game Night
- 16 Gym Night
- 18-21 Senior High Retreat

**March**

- 2 Roller Skating
- 4-5 Jump Start Retreat
- 16 Gym Night

**April**

- 3 VIA-Combined Bible Learning Class
- 6 Volunteer's Meeting

**ATTENTION DADS & DUDES**

You are a dad or dude if you are the father of/or a boy in grade Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Pizza/Movie night on Friday, March 11, 2011 from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Approximate donation of \$5 per family.

Come and enjoy a night out with the boys!

*Jim Yoder*



**SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTS cont.**

teens in crisis. They are handmade quilts and afghans given to various organizations that deal with children who are suffering from an illness or a trauma in their life. Visit the bulletin board in the narthex for more information on Project Linus.

How can you get involved? New yarn, fabric, batting, and thread can be donated. A specific list is on the bulletin board. A bin will be in the narthex to be filled with these supplies. If you can crochet, knit or sew, you can help. If you want to learn, you can help too.

February 11 from 6-9pm we will be working on crocheting and knitting blankets. Bring yarn and needles if you can (Crochet hooks G-J). You can work on your own blanket or you can make granny squares or knitted squares to add to a blanket. You can even take what you don't finish home with you or leave it to work on the next month.

March 11 from 6-9pm we will be working on sewing quilt blocks. Bring your sewing machine, mat, rotary blade, and extra thread and fabric if you can. We will be cutting and sewing blocks. Those who want to continue working on the afghans can do that also. Or you can work on your own projects.

Anyone who cannot make these Friday nights can see me and I can give you instructions and materials to create granny squares or quilt blocks. You don't have to be able to crochet, knit, or sew. There is plenty to do such as cutting and ironing.

Join the fun, but please don't forget to sign up.

Coming soon... All day scrapbook event with classes for beginners. Craft classes where you go home with a treasure for a...

**JUMP START**

**Calling all Middle Schoolers!** The Middle Schoolers' very own retreat will be held on the first weekend in March! Along with middle school kids from other BIC churches, this over-nighter will be filled with thoughtful sessions by speaker Sami Bradley, fellowship with other kids and plenty of games!

**Please be sure that Shandi Santos gets your permission slip back by Feb 9!** Lost yours? See Shandi for a second one.

**Cost:** \$30 (You pay half of this and the church pays the other half! Free if you helped with Youth Quest Dinner/Auction!!)

**Date:** March 4-5, 2011

**Place:** Manheim Brethren in Christ Church



**SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTS**

A new dimension of Scrapbooking & Crafts will be starting on February 11. We will be starting an hour earlier from 6-9pm. There will be a sign-up to prepare for the number of people who want to attend. You have the option to work on your own project or you can join in on a new charity project.

In an effort to get more of our church family and others in the community involved in fellowship through creativity, I am taking on a charity project. It is called Project Linus. This

**WEEKDAY PROGRAMS**

Preschool classes are back in session....sort of! The weather has hampered us from getting together on several occasions. When we are together, we have lots of fun, though! The preschool age children are talking about all things healthy! We talked a lot about food and turned our class into a grocery store! We took a trip to the Hoffman's dairy farm and learned how they take care of the cows. Thank you for hosting us, Psuche! We have another field trip scheduled for the very end of the month to Caruso's pizza located across the road. We look forward to learning how they make their yummy pizzas. We have lots more healthy fun to look forward to in February!

The toddlers have been talking about all kinds of community helpers. They really enjoyed talking about doctors and making their own doctor kits. Coming up, they will be learning all about firefighters and policemen and how they do their jobs! My assistant, Mrs. Denlinger, was presented with a job opportunity that she couldn't resist, so this year also began with a staff change. The classes are so blessed to have DeAnne Thrush rejoin the preschool class and a lovely young lady, Sarah Matos will be assisting in the Toddler class. Welcome ladies!

Toddler Gym is underway and families are having a great time. We have approximately 20 families enrolled. I am having a blast leading circle time and teaching the little ones about things like circles and opposites. Ask our church families, Pastor Jim and Julia or Shelley and Brianna, what they think!

We look forward to the new session of Gym Time Plus to start when Eileen is recovered from surgery. She does a great job and during the recent Preschool Expo several families asked how she was doing. Susan Kreider and I represented our program during the Expo and we were impressed by the number of families that knew of our church from the programs we have here during the week. Speaking of weekday programs, the church board has officially decided to group the weekday programs under one umbrella with me as the director! I am so excited and look forward to the Fall. Look for more information regarding the classes that will be available to come out soon. I am thankful and humbled at the opportunity to continue these worthwhile programs.

*Blessings,  
Jessica Gordon*

**PUZZLE**

**A LOVE LETTER**

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

**DIRECTIONS:** Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

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1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

# The Branch

## The Staff

### *Senior Pastor*

James D. Ernst

### *Director of Youth and Young Adults*

Shandi E. Santos

### *Director of Music Ministries*

Nicole Siegel

### *Church Administrator*

Bill Ziegler

### *Secretary*

Carol Crawford

### *Branch Editor*

Diane L. Wagner

### *Branch Mailer*

Etta Hess

## Did You Know...

- ✓ Anastasia Cosette was born to Geoff & Anne Dissinger on December 28 – a sister for Ella?
- ✓ the Audio team has added BJ McCoy and Jordan McCoy to the audio team?
- ✓ you can post an article or advertisement about your ministry in the BRANCH? It is easy. Write it up and sent it to: [BranchEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BranchEditor@gmail.com)
- ✓ you can be notified by email of ANY PRAYER REQUEST about our church family? If you do not currently get automatic prayer request emails, please see Bill Ziegler who will add your email address to the PRAYER CHAIN.
- ✓ you can place PRAISES on the PRAYER CHAIN as well as prayer requests? Just go to: [prayerchain@lanbic.org](mailto:prayerchain@lanbic.org) and type in your request or praise.

### *The Branch*

is the monthly newsletter of the  
Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church

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Email: [church@lanbic.org](mailto:church@lanbic.org)

### **Sunday**

8:00 Worship  
9:00 Bible Learning Classes  
10:30 Worship

### **Wednesday Lift**

6:00 Evening Meal  
6:45 Groups for All Ages  
7:00 Prayer Team